

REMARKS

The present invention provides a "wall-mountable" "self service" data interface between users' personal data devices and a data infrastructure that improves the openness and ease of use of the data infrastructure, thereby enabling wider use of information technology without high costs and uncertainties. In particular, the data interface -- having user-side and infrastructure-side communication interfaces -- includes a "data interface management processor" that is operative to inform a user of a personal data device of the communicative connection(s) of that device to other computer resources through said data interface, as well as services available through said resources, thereby enabling user self-service activities.

Claims 21 to 31 are pending. Claim 21 is the only independent claim.

All stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,459,727, issued to G. Vanucci on October 17, 1995 (hereinafter, the "Vanucci reference"), in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,757,521, issued to J. Ying on June 29, 2004 (hereinafter, the "Ying reference").

Claims 21, 27, and 28 are amended. Claims 26 and 31 are cancelled. Reconsideration is requested.

In the Office action, the examiner states, "Vanucci does not specifically disclose information provided in a form handled by the personal data device to communicatively inform said user sufficiently to enable at least diagnose of said at least one of the wired and wireless communication connections". The examiner observes, however, that this missing item is found in the Ying reference. The examiner notes, in particular, the use in the Ying reference of a portable electronic diagnostic device having both diagnostic functionality and wireless communication capability with a control network and ground stations.

Applicant appreciates the examiner's observation.

It is noted, however, that applicant's claims make clear that the "information" provided to the "personal data device" is provided by a "data interface management processor **within the enclosure**". (Emphasis added.) As argued earlier, the "information" is specifically defined in claim 21, and as defined, that "information" is neither disclosed or suggested in the Vanucci reference. To the extent the Ying reference shows said "information", there is no teaching in that reference -- or the Vanucci reference -- to suggest that that information be provided by a data interface management processor within a wall-mountable enclosure. It bears noting further in that the Ying reference relates to wireless diagnostic monitoring of terrestrial ground stations, which is discussed at a high level that does not afford much insight into the precise details of implementation at each ground station. The rejection is thus felt questionable.

Regardless, the issue is moot.

Claim 21 is amended. The "information" provided by the "data interface management processor" is further defined. In addition to "diagnostic information", "information" is also provided about the "communication connection between" and "services available from" the "plurality of computer resources". This is suggested by any of the cited art references, alone or in combination.

No new matter is added. The subject matter added to independent claim 21 was recited in dependent claims 26 and 31, now both cancelled.

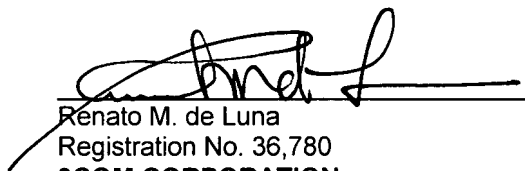
In sum, claim 21 defines subject matter not obviated by the combined Vanucci and Ying references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 is requested.

As to claims 22 to 30, applicants acknowledge and appreciate the examiner's observations. Claims 22 to 30, however, are all ultimately dependent on claim 21. Claims 22 to 30 are thus also not obviated by the Vanucci reference in view of the Ying reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22 to 30 is also requested.

Conclusion

The pending claims define subject matter neither described nor suggested by the cited art references. The written description, claims, and drawings meet all applicable statutory requirements. The application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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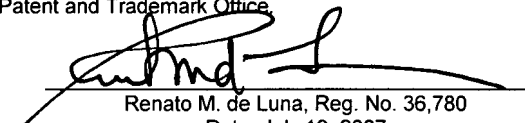
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